APPENDIX A: CLEAN COPY OF PENDING CLAIMS

1. A method for detecting a cancer cell in a sample comprising the steps of:

    (a) providing said sample; and

    (b) identifying MICA or MICB expression in said sample.

2. The method of claim 2, wherein said identifying comprises binding of MICA or MICB by a MICA- or MICB-binding agent.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said MICA- or MICB-binding agent is a first antibody.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said first antibody is a bispecific antibody recognizing both MICA and MICB.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said first antibody is labeled.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said label is a radiolabel, a fluorescent label, a chemilluminescent label, an enzyme, or a ligand.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein said first antibody is unlabeled and said first antibody is detected by binding of a detection agent to said first antibody.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said detection agent is a second antibody.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said second antibody binds to an Fc-region of said first antibody.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said second antibody is labeled.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said label is a radiolabel, a fluorescent label, a chemilluminescent label, an enzyme, or a ligand.

12. The method of claim 3, wherein binding of said first antibody is competitive with a second antibody.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein MICA expression is identified.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein MICB expression is identified.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein MICA and MICB expression are identified.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying comprises amplifying a MICA or MICB transcript.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said amplifying comprises PCR.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said amplifying further comprises, prior to said PCR, reverse transcription.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the PCR product is detected following electrophoretic separation.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the PCR product is detected following hybridization.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein the PCR is quantitative PCR.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of lung tissue, skin tissue, muscle tissue, liver tissue, renal tissue, colon tissue, prostate tissue, breast tissue, brain tissue, cervical tissue, pancreatic tissue, stomach tissue, testicular tissue, ovarian tissue or marrow tissue.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of sputum, blood, semen, plasma, serum, lymphatic fluid, urine and stool.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of brain cancer, lymphatic cancer, liver cancer, stomach cancer, testicular cancer, cervical cancer, leukemia, melanoma, head & neck cancer, esophageal cancer, colon cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer and renal cancer.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the cancer is colon cancer, breast cancer, lung cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer or renal cancer.